



Welcome to

RUYDE

2024-2025

Royal Youth Dance Ensemble

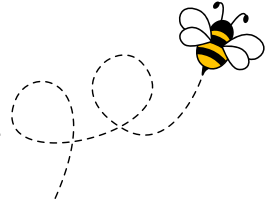


**IT'S GOING TO
BE A GREAT
SEASON!**



Bee You!

RYDE: ENROLLMENT



Thank you for starting or continuing your child's dance journey with RYDE. We are looking forward to new beginnings, which marks RYDE's 10th season of offering affordable, accesible dance for all.

To our RYDE Dance Parents:

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your dancer financially, but your emotional support is of even greater value.

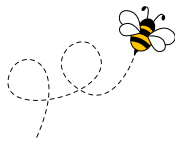
Please encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be, regardless of what others may achieve. All students will progress at a different rate, even if they experience the exact same training. What comes easily for one student may present more of a challenge for another.

It's important to encourage children to focus on being the best versions of themselves, giving their all, and being proud of their own accomplishments!

Thank you for allowing them to creatively express themselves through the performing art of dance, music, and theater.



Bee Resilient!

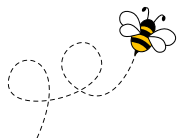


RYDE: PLACEMENT

Placement classes are classes that will determine which class/style is the right fit for your child. Whether your child desires more advanced level classes, performance opportunities, or shorter session classes that are more recreational, which are fun dance classes for children with no prior dance experience, our team is ready to help you choose the best dance experience for your child.

Each year, RYDE offers trial classes for new/returning students to come and try any age-appropriate dance style to see which one(s) is a great fit for them. This gives students an opportunity to experience classes to see which ones they like and want to commit to for the season. It also helps teachers observe, recommend, and determine which class(es) will be the better fit for dancers who wish to enroll in dance classes for the season.

The third week of our trial period is designated for enrollment, based on your child's experience, the teacher's recommendations, and your overall decision.



Bee Kind



RYDE: EXPECTATIONS **Studio Environment**

We ask that the noise level from siblings and parents waiting be kept at a reasonable level when classes are in session.

Please only bring water and tightly covered drinks. Your courtesy will be greatly appreciated.

Students and parents should not go in the other classrooms for any reason, without permission. Should you need help with something, ask one of our staff members.

Parents and students should never interrupt or enter into a class while in session.

Children must be supervised at all times and are not to run around the lobby, restrooms, or church hallways. Please do not speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other studios - this includes social media. All students must show respect for their teachers, RYDE Staff, Volunteers, and the space where RYDE dance classes are held. Repeated inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the RYDE program.

Classroom Environment

There is to be no gum, food or sodas in the classrooms.

Students must eat snacks/refreshments in the designated area/lobby. Water bottles are allowed. NO CELL PHONES are to be used while class is in session. If a student is constantly on their phone, checking texts, and causing a distraction/disruption, all cell phones will remain with a RYDE Staff for the remainder of the evening.

If you need to get in contact with a student that is in class, please call Ms. Sherra or your child's teacher. and we will happily relay a message to your child.

Bee Creative



RYDE: MISSION, VISION, & GOAL

Since 2015, The Royal Youth Dance Ensemble (RYDE) has been creating dancers and cultivating artists. RYDE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission to provide a safe creative outlet for youth that build character and confidence, promote healthy body image and self-esteem, and encourages positive interaction through artistic expression.

RYDE inspires character development and growth through the art forms of dance and theatre. These art forms and disciplines help boost self-confidence, develop healthy self-images, promote positive friendships - all while providing children and youth an opportunity to learn dance techniques in an inspiring, safe environment. These forms of creativity influence a drive to develop their own artistic expression. Through the power of artistic expression, we aim to foster positive interactions and inspire youth to navigate life's experiences using the arts and its disciplines.

Our vision is to use the arts as a vehicle for cultural exposure, enrichment, and enjoyment, leading to overall healthier outcomes for our students.

RYDE strives to build a community of connection that promotes an overall understanding of health and wellness, for the whole family!





Bee Committed!

RYDE: OUR PHILOSOPHY

RYDE is committed to providing high-quality dance classes to enhance the overall development of the child.

We provide a safe and child-centered environment to encourage our students to explore dance with qualified, nurturing teachers.

We believe that dance training encourages young people to develop a positive self-image as they increase awareness of their physical being. Along with improving coordination skills and developing muscular awareness, dance classes give children the freedom to express themselves through movement.

The highest educational standards are expected from all. RYDE staff members are lifelong learners who continue to educate themselves through certification programs, teacher-training workshops, conferences, and other continued learning opportunities.



**ROYAL YOUTH
DANCE ENSEMBLE**

Bee Aware!

RYDE: COMMITMENT



Statement of Commitment to Child Safe Standards:

RYDE has a commitment to providing a safe environment for all children and young people who are in our programs. We actively implement strategies to ensure that services are physically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally safe. All children and young people who are participate with any RYDE programs have a right to feel safe and be safe.

The welfare of the children and young people in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to abuse, which is any act committed against a child/young person involving:

- physical violence
- sexual offences
- emotional or psychological abuse
- neglect

RYDE proactively takes measures to protect children and young people from abuse which also includes actions and attitudes that deliberately ignore, deny, criticize or attack the culture of a person or community.



ROYAL YOUTH
DANCE ENSEMBLE

Bee Accountable!



RYDE: CORE VALUES

Interactions

We measure all our interactions with staff and customers in accordance with the values. We expect the same between team members, and between customers.

Decision Making

We refer every decision we make back to how it would affect our values which in turn directly affects the experience our students (and parents) receive. Our vision for our students is our core business. Failure to adhere to the values is failure itself.

Accountability

Performance is measured on how the individual team members demonstrate the Core Values in day to day interactions. Were they welcoming, engaging, and positive in class? Do they interact and communicate with parents with respect and integrity? RYDE defines the way in which we manage our relationships, internally and externally, through our Core Values.

What our customers can expect from us:

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
COMMUNITY FOCUS
CONNECTION, FAMILY & PARENT ENGAGEMENT,
GENUINE CONCERN, COMPASSION, AND CARE
PURPOSE DRIVEN PASSION, PROFESSIONALISM,
QUALITY, EXCELLENCE
SUPPORT, HONESTY
INTEGRITY, AND RESPECT



ROYAL YOUTH
DANCE ENSEMBLE

Bee Ready!

DANCE ETIQUETTE



Arrive on time for dance class:

When dancers arrive on time it allows them to get settled and focused, so they do not enter the class in a whirlwind. Often when parents bring their little ones to class late, the child feels overwhelmed. This is because they don't have time to get used to their surroundings.

Entering the dance class:

Dancers should wait outside the classroom until the teacher invites students in to begin dance class. It is challenging for the dance teacher when children are running around the room, while the teacher is trying to set-up for their next dance class or talk with parents. The teacher needs an appropriate amount of time for preparation so they can teach the next class well.

Dance studios dress code:

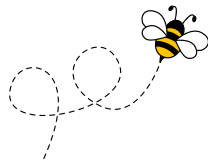
Please follow your child's dress code (as noted in the parent handbook). Often, young dancers show up in party dresses, costumes, or jewelry. As fun as that is, it can be very distracting to everyone in the room. Dance attire is flexible and clingy to show the dancer's lines while giving them the ability to move as much as they can. Please wear appropriate dance shoes, as this make a big difference too!

Talking in dance classes:

With an experienced dance teacher, time should be given to the dancers to talk to help cut down on disruptive talking while the lesson is going on. In children's dance classes, kids begin to learn that they should be quiet unless their teacher is asking them to speak or it is an unstructured time of the dance class.

Bee Mindful!

DANCE ETIQUETTE



Water breaks in dance classes:

Many teachers give about one water break per hour in children's dance classes. Especially if the class is high energy or if it is hot. Some teachers do not give any water breaks in young ballet/tap dance classes for kids if the dancers are in a more mellow environment. When children start asking for a water break frequently, that means they are losing focus. Dance classes run much more smoothly when dancers know to wait for their teacher to give them a break rather than interrupting. Please send your dancer with a labeled water bottle if needed.

Restroom breaks in dance classes:

Dancers should go to the restroom before dance class starts. It is especially difficult for a teacher if a child needs to go to the restroom and their parent has already dropped them off.

Parent involvement during dance classes:

Parents should not enter the class without being asked by the teacher or giving comments/feedback to their dancers during it. It can be very distracting to the student and affect their attitude. If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, please talk to your teacher or dancer after the dance class.

Parents, please stay outside of the dance classes: *unless the teacher allows

Some younger dance classes ask that parents stay in the room and participate while others ask that you stay out. This is really about the developmental stage of the child. When kids are under 3 years old, it is very beneficial to have parents in the room helping as needed. When kids are 3 or older, they tend to focus and have better attitudes when parents watch from a distance. Please respect your teacher's rules if you register for his or her kids' dance class. Explain to your dancer in advance that they are in a big kids' class and tell them where you will be. This way, they won't get any surprises and will feel more comfortable knowing where you are.

Distractions in dance classes:

Dancers should not bring anything into a dance class that will be distracting to the learning environment such as toys, electronics and/or accessories. These only end up causing more problems and sometimes tears if the teacher has to take them away from the dancer.

Thanking your teacher after dance classes:

Dance teachers play a significant role in the lives of aspiring dancers. They not only teach the art form but also inspire, guide, and support their students throughout their dance journey. Showing appreciation for their dedication and hard work is essential to acknowledge the impact they have on your child's growth as a dancer.

Manners:

Did you know that kid's dance classes are great for teaching etiquette? These manners go a long way throughout the rest of their lives. The more respectful everyone is in class, the easier it is to learn and have a good time. Talk to your dancer about these topics and ask your dance teacher for feedback if you have any questions. We hope these tips help.

We look forward to growing with your child through their most vulnerable, formative years of development.



Bee Supportive!

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE RYDE



Concessions:

Volunteer to run our Concessions for a Cause stand and serve snacks, refreshments, drinks, etc. during special events throughout the season. The money raised will be donated back to RYDE to help with operations, supplies, materials, equipment, and to fund our tuition/costume assistance fund.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council):

Parent support and help coordinating special events during the dance season. Join our private Facebook group and join BAND our messaging app.

Volunteer opportunities:

There are many ways to support RYDE throughout the year. Sign-up online on our website or request our Volunteer packet for more ways to donate your time.

Dancer's Bin:

Gently used to new dancewear for dancers in need of practice wear for class. If your dancer has outgrown their dancewear and it's in new or gently used condition, consider donating it back to the RYDE Dancer's Bin.



**ROYAL YOUTH
DANCE ENSEMBLE**

Bee Helpful!

FUNDRAISERS

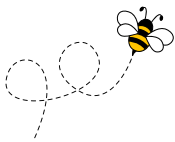


Each year, RYDE participates in fundraisers to help support the overall mission of our program. Fundraisers help with operational costs, equipment, materials, supplies, and funds our scholarship/tuition assistance fund.

RYDE asks dancers to participate in at least one during either the fall or spring.

Bee Confident!

PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION



At the end of the Winter/Spring/Summer semesters, dance students will have a performance/recital showcase. There is a costume/performance fee for the winter performance and spring recital. The performance fee helps offset the cost of renting the venue and other related expenses.

It is not mandatory, but we encourage participation and dedication while preparing for these events, as missing classes will cause dancers to miss important routines, techniques, and instructions.

Teachers will make recommendations of students to participate/perform in special performances/events, then talk with parents and students to determine level of commitment for extra rehearsals/practices in preparation for event.

The performance-ready rehearsals are extra and will be scheduled accordingly.



Bee Present!

ATTENDANCE POLICY



Our dance instructors spend a significant amount of time preparing for each class, so when a student misses, it takes time away from the whole class to teach what the child missed. Chronic absences hurt overall performance whether it is in class or on stage.

If a dancer misses more than the first fifteen minutes of class, she/he would not be properly warmed up. Injuries are less likely with properly warmed up muscles.

Therefore, if a student misses more than the first 15 minutes of class, he/she will be asked sit and watch the rest of class.

Progress in class is dependent upon regular and consistent participation.

If your child will not be attending class, please call to inform us.



Bee Responsible!

PAYMENT POLICY

Tuition is due by the 1st of the month during the regular dance season (Sept-June), regardless of attendance. Tuition is late if received after the 5th of the month.

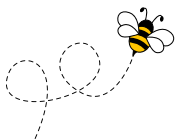
RYDE's dance season runs for 10-months. Tuition is calculated based operating months, not on the number of weeks/classes in a month. If your child has had more than two consecutive absences, in a month, we will contact you to see if they will be returning to dance.

We require a two-week notice for class withdrawals.

You may choose to pay monthly, by semester (Fall or Spring), by the session, or for the entire dance season.

Methods of payment: Cashapp \$Royalyouthdanceens, Venmo @royalyouthdance, PayPal royalsdance129@gmail.com check, or cash





Bee a Leader!

RYDE STAFF AND STUDIO TEAM

RYDE Staff and Studio Team:

Executive Director: Mrs. Sherra Robinson-Branner

Outreach Assistant: Ms. Yasmin Horton

Classroom Teaching Assistant: Miss Becca Jones

Student Teaching Assistant: Miss Kalecia Earley-Jones

After School Dance Club Teacher: Ms. Alexius Rice

After School Dance Club Coordinator: Mrs. Lonnie Kincaid-Gallaher

Social Media Coordinator: Mr. Kadell Robinson

Board Members:

Mrs. Sherra Robinson-Branner, BS - Founder/Executive Director

Ms. Kristi Harper, MBA - Treasurer

Ms. Linda Tucker, MS - Secretary (Parent Liaison)

Advisory Council:

Ms. Donna Ewing, BS - Educator

Mr. Eric Amarante, Esq (Community Law Professor)

RYDE Dance Instructors:

Mr. Greg Carney aka Mr. G, Ms. Mae Cox, Ms. Ruby Heard,

Ms. Sandy Larson, Ms. Lelena "Marie" Lister,

Ms. Grace VerStrate, and Ms. Eden Rowland.

Email: royalsdance129@gmail.com

Program contact: 865-745-9363

Website: www.royalyouthdance.org



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